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I. SERIES.

SARAH & EMILY.



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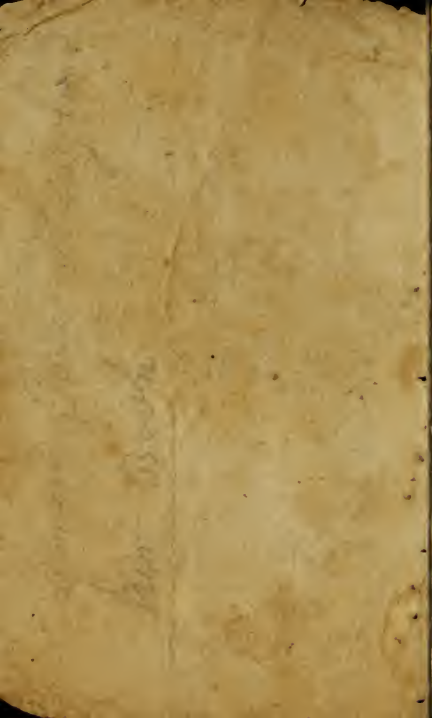
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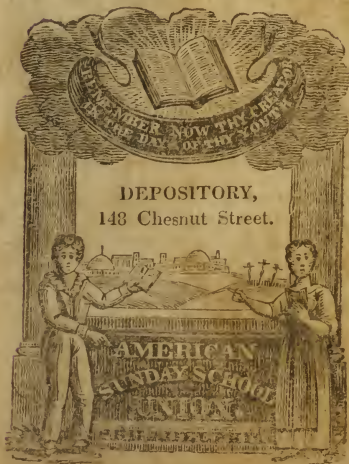
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SARAH AND EMILY.

Revised by the Committee of Publication.



SARAH AND EMILY.

SARAH and Emily lived very near each other. In the fine spring mornings their mothers used to send them into the fields to gather cowslips, which they afterwards carried to the next town to sell.

One evening a lady called at the cottages where their mothers lived, and said, that she wanted a great many cowslips the next day, and she would take all they could bring at ten o'clock.

Early in the morning these little girls set out with their baskets, and each of them had a thick slice of bread for breakfast, which they ate as they went along, and they were told to be sure to return home before nine o'clock.

As they walked, they overtook a poor woman, who had a little boy and a little girl with her. They were all very thin and pale, and the little boy looked very wishfully at the bread the little girls were eating.

"My dears," said the woman, "can you spare a morsel of your bread for my poor

children, they have had nothing to eat since yesterday noon, and they are very hungry."

"Oh, I am very hungry too," said Sarah, and she walked on, eating her bread.

Emily was quite as willing to eat all her breakfast as Sarah, but when she saw how hungry the little boy and his sister looked, a text came into her mind, which she had learned the Sunday before: "Whoso seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed, and in truth." And after saying this text, she had repeated the pretty hymn—

"Whene'er I take my walks abroad."

Now Emily was not a little girl who repeated her texts and hymns without thinking about what they meant, like little boys and girls I have sometimes met with. As this was the case, you will not wonder to hear, that she stopped, and dividing the bread into two pieces, she gave one to each of the children, saying, "Here, take this, I am sure you want it more than I do, and I wish we had overtaken you before I had eaten so much of my breakfast." Emily then ran on.

If you had but seen how glad the poor

children were to have this bit of dry bread, I think you would not soon have forgotten it; and I hope it would have made you feel very thankful, when you were eating your own breakfasts. Sometimes I have seen little children waste their breakfasts and dinners, because they had not just what they liked, and I have thought if they did but recollect, how many poor children cannot get enough to eat, they would not be so nice and dainty.

When Adam was sent from paradise, God said to him, "In the sweat of thy brow, thou shalt eat bread:" which means, that man shall not procure food without toil and difficulty. Now, this is the case with all, more or less, though in general children do not know how much trouble their parents have to get food for them to eat, and clothes for them to wear. It is a proof of our having sinned against God, which all have done; even the youngest child is by nature inclined to do what is wrong and displeasing to God. Thus they become selfish, wish always to have their own way, and show many other naughty tempers. But Christ came from heaven that our sins might be pardoned through his sufferings, and that we might not only be forgiven, but also, by the power of his Holy Spirit, these naughty

tempers and wicked desires might be taken away, and we might have new hearts given us, which would love him, and delight in doing his will. Christ said—"Suffer little children to come unto me." Emily had been taught this, and I hope she felt a desire to love the Saviour, and to do his will; and I can assure my little readers, that, if they do the same, they will feel much happier than any thing else can make them.

Emily now overtook Sarah, and they presently came to a large meadow where the cowslips grew; it was divided by a path which went through it, so Emily went into the meadow on one side the path, and Sally on the other. This was wise, as each was gathering for her own mother, and if they had kept close together, perhaps something might have made them dispute. It is always wise to avoid every thing which can cause words, or a quarrel, "for the beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water." Though the matter you dispute about may be very trifling at first, there is no knowing what may follow.

The cowslips were nearly over, and the little girls began to fear they should not be able to fill their baskets by the time they were to be at home.

Presently the poor woman and her chil-

dren came into the meadow; the little boy did not forget who had given him part of her own breakfast, and as soon as he saw what Emily was about, he called his sister, and they set to work gathering the cowslips, and their mother helped. Emily's basket was now soon filled, and they gathered as many as her pin-a-fore could hold besides; they then bid her good bye, and went on.

"The clock struck eight a great while ago," said Emily, calling to her companion; "it is time to go home. Are you ready?"

Sarah. "O no, my basket is not half full; what shall I do?"

Emily. "I am sorry to hear you have not got enough; but remember the lady must have the cowslips by ten o'clock, or she said she could not take them at all, so I cannot stop any longer."

Sarah. "Well, I must go too: but what a great many you have got."

Emily. "The poor woman and her children helped me."

Sarah. "Why did not they help me too?"

Emily. "What did you say when you overtook them?"

Sarah recollected and was silent, her conscience told her she had done wrong, but she did not like to confess it. This was a proof that she was, not really sorry because

she had been unkind, but only because she found that she had suffered for it. There is a great difference between being really sorry for having done what is wrong, and only being sorry because you are found out and punished.

I hope my little readers will remember this, all sin is displeasing to God, and it is to him we are to look for pardon. He knows all that is in our hearts; and whether we really desire to be kept from doing what is displeasing to Him. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."—



1 *John* i. 8, 9. Then look to the Saviour for pardon of your sins, and pray that he would

cause you to love him; and that you may be led by the Holy Spirit, to "walk in the Spirit:" that is, to do such things as are pleasing to God. The apostle Paul tells us, that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:" as you may read, *Gal. v. 22, 23.*

When the little girls reached home, Emily put down her cowslips, and ran to call her mother to come and see what a great many she had got. Her mother was very much pleased, and could not think how Emily had been able to gather so many, till she told her about the poor woman and the children, and she did not do this to boast of it, because she knew it was only doing to others, as she would like them to do to her. But as her mother asked her, she of course told the truth.

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given, will he pay him again." *Prov. xix. 17.*

Even very poor children may do some good in the world. My little reader, ask yourself, "What good am I doing, or have I ever done?"

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